AHAM (Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers)

Measuring the Impact of Standards on Voluntary Consensus Standards on Human Health and Safety

Randy Cooper
VP, Technical Operations and Standards

Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers

- Represents manufacturers who sell appliances in the U.S. and Canada
- Formed in 1967 as a merger of previous associations
- AHAM members produce more than 95% of the household appliances shipped for sale in the U.S. and Canada. The factory shipment value of these products greater than $30 billion annually.
- Offices in Washington DC, USA; Davis, CA; and Ottawa, Canada

AHAM represents manufacturers of a full spectrum of major, portable and floor care appliances, as well as suppliers to the industry. The association is committed to serving the home appliance industry while delivering value to consumers through leadership, education and advocacy.

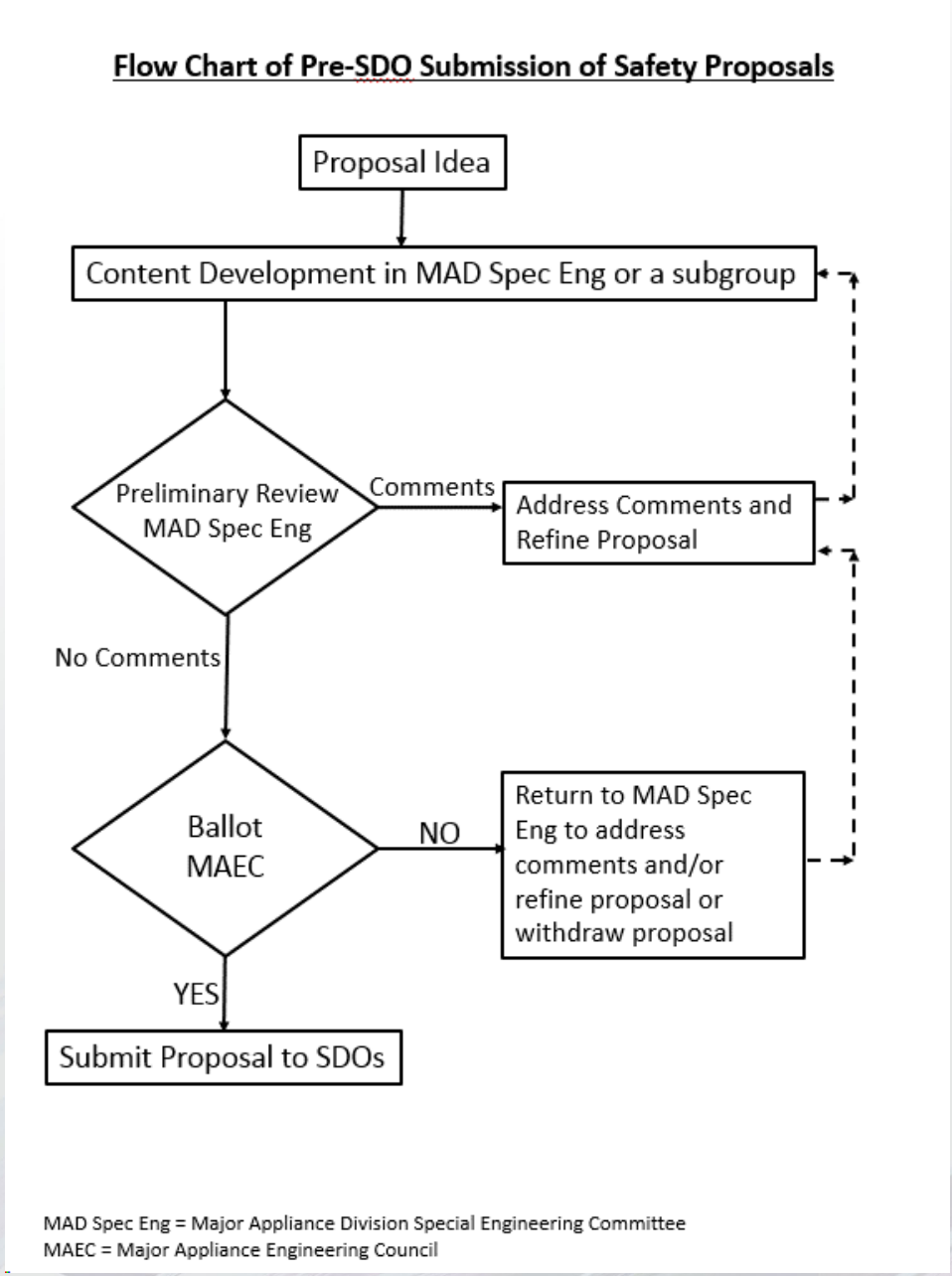
AHAM VERIFIDE Independently Tested. Consumer Trusted.

AHAM as an SDO

- AHAM is accredited by ANSI for our AHAM Performance standards
  - Currently 21 published AHAM standards
  - 2 are American National Standards (ANS). 2 others recently withdrawn.
    - AHAM uses the ANSI Canvas process
- For safety standards, AHAM submits proposals to UL or CSA.
- Since 2012, AHAM has submitted over 100 proposals to the SDO's

Defined Process

- What we do in Special Engineering Groups:
  - Focus on technical aspects of what went wrong or what could go wrong.
  - Develop multiple paths for compliance
    - Product requirements
    - Test out path for equivalence
  - Get experts involved during proposal development
    - Suppliers
    - CPSC Human factors



Example results

- AHAM worked with UL to propose fire containment requirements for dryers.
  - In summary, in fiscal year 2019, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Directorate for Engineering Sciences (ES) staff initiated a project to assess the effectiveness of the Fire Containment performance tests in Sections 16.6 and 16.7 of Underwriters Laboratories (UL) 2158 – Electric Clothes Dryers. This report summarizes the project team's work and recommendations. The project's steps were as follows:
    - Review incident data to see if it can provide any information on the efficacy of the fire containment tests.
    - Examine electric clothes dryers built before and after the UL 2158 fire containment test requirements' 2013 effective date.
    - Conduct a fire containment test on a new clothes dryer to gain insight on possible gaps in the test procedures.
  - Specifically, looking at the purchase dates of clothes dryers from reported incidents (103) from 2000 to 2019, where fire escaped the appliance, the number of recorded incidents before the 2013 incorporation of the UL 2158 Fire Containment tests, was about 2.5 incidents per year; and for 2013 and later, the incidents were about 0.5 per year.